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Inaugural Essay,

on

Hemorrhoids.

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine  
in the University of  
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By John Wilson Hunt  
of

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The disease which I have chosen  
as the subject of my Inaugural Thesis,  
is "Hæmorrhoids". The term literally  
signifies "a flow of blood" but in Medi-  
cal language, is limited in its import  
to a sanguineous discharge, occurring more  
or less frequently from the lower part  
of the Rectum, or to tumours formed  
beneath the mucous membrane in the  
immediate vicinity of the anus.

These appearances are generally  
preceded by a sense of fulness, heat, itching  
or pain about the lower end of the intestine  
- caused by an increased flow of blood  
toward the part or by pressure on the  
veins preventing its reflux. The afflux

The disease which I have chosen  
as the subject of my dissertation  
is "Hemorrhoids." The two words  
signify a kind of blood, but in this  
case, the word is limited to its proper  
signification, and signifies a kind of  
blood which flows from the lower part  
of the rectum, or the lower part  
of the anus. The disease is common  
in the rectum, and is the cause  
of much suffering. The disease is  
caused by a kind of blood which  
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rectum, or the lower part of the  
anus.

is sometimes considerable & connected with a febrile state of the system at large; we then find pain in the head back & limbs parched mouth, tenderness of the abdomen with other symptoms of an excited circulation. The inflammation of the mucous membrane is occasionally so great as to cause a serous effusion from the anus, to which the French surgeons have appropriated the name "Hémorrhoides Blanches". This does not constitute a species of the disease but is similar in character to the thin acrid discharges that are thrown out often by the lining membrane of the Bronchia, in cases of inflammation of that tissue.

At this time efforts at stool are productive of excruciating pain unless relieved by a flow of blood which

is sometimes considered a crime. The first  
 of these is the state of the system at large, in  
 the first place in the last decade a  
 general principle, the basis of the system  
 with other principles of an ancient in-  
 creasing. The information of the man  
 our government is necessarily to give  
 as to cause a general opinion for the  
 and to which the good progress has  
 approached the point "democratical"  
 character. The last part consists in  
 species of the system that is similar to  
 character to the other side of the  
 that are the result of the first  
 members of the Democratic party  
 information of the system  
 of the first effect of the  
 production of a new party for and  
 relation of a few of these which

they sometimes induce from the part.  
This bleeding which is one of the terminations of the acute stage is denominated "Open piles" - It may continue for several days & may recur at regular periods for months or years.

Open Piles are attended with much less pain than the other species but when the discharge becomes habitual it cannot be suppressed without the superintention of those alarming and serious symptoms which attend the obstruction of long standing discharges generally.

Where the feeling of fulness and tension about the anus that denotes the inception of the disease, is slight, it often disappears in a few days - a cure having been effected by resolu-

any particular interest for the fact.  
The thinking which is one of the main  
action of the soul, & the  
When I feel the way leading for me  
days & long years at present friends  
for months to years.  
When I feel an attack of  
I feel that the other side  
but when the thinking becomes habit  
and it seems to suffer from  
the perfection of the learning and  
various questions which attend the  
education of the thinking mind  
you generally  
Then the feeling of judgment  
there about the same that leads  
the perfection of the discovery is slight  
I often discover in a few days  
can know, but often by practice

tion. But frequently when the turgescence of the part has continued for some time, tumours appear, constituting the second species of the disease & entitled "Blind Piles". These consist, in the first place of an effusion of blood between the mucous & muscular coats of the rectum, of ~~blood~~. At times they become surrounded by a cyst formed by adhesive inflammation & by accretion of the surrounding cellular substance. The tumours are at first round, shining & of a dark purple colour, the pain is sometimes acute & sometimes obtuse. If by proper treatment the inflammation is removed the effused blood is entirely absorbed & the distended skin appears loose and pendulous; - but if the irritation remains coagulable lymph is thrown out, & the



tumours become organised & fleshy,

These tumours through all their stages find a parallel in the swellings & excrescences that so frequently attend & follow inflammation of the tunica conjunctiva of the eye.

Internal piles are of the same nature precisely, though less painful owing to their being surrounded by soft & yielding substances. When their number or extent, is great, they form a barrier to the excretion of feces & are productive of considerable inconvenience. They are in some instances protruded by efforts at stool, & if grasped by the sphincter ani muscle become exceedingly painful. The violence of the symptoms sometimes increase to such a degree as to



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resemble those which accompany strangulated Hernia. The strangulation is occasionally sufficiently complete to destroy the vitality of the tumour & cause it to mortify & slough off thus effecting a natural cure.

As Abernethy remarks that the eversion is not always dependent on this mechanical cause but that it often arises from an "irritable and striving action of the bowels, which produces a kind of intussusception. Thus plaits of the bowels often descend during the expulsion of feces" & give rise to considerable & long continued pain. The patient will be at a loss to account for the cause, but if the surgeon introduce his finger the intussusception will be evident to him.



& on replacing the bowel in its proper  
 situation, the symptoms will disap-  
 pear & recur again only at the next  
 effort at stool. If the bowel remain  
 long without being replaced, it may  
 become adapted to its unnatural po-  
 sition, thickened, hardened & form a  
 permanent tumour which, if at  
 any time, become inflamed & puffed,  
 will have the effect of drawing down  
 more of the intestine & increasing the  
 disease. The tumours thus formed  
 should be treated in every respect  
 as if they arose from the common  
 causes of Hemorrhoids.

Although the Hemorrhoidal  
 disease prevades every clasp of men  
 & every climate and is always pain-  
 ful & disagreeable & often seriously so,



its pathology has been investigated by but few writers. Almost all who have spoken of it, suppose it to depend on a varicose enlargement of the Hemorrhoidal veins. Cullen was the first to suggest the true history of the complaint, & since his day a few French surgeons are almost the only members of the profession, who have devoted much attention to the subject.

Monteggia<sup>1</sup> has written a very full <sup>interesting</sup> & highly valuable account of the disease & to him & a paper read before the Philadelphia Medical Society by my present preceptor Dr Harris, I am chiefly indebted for my ideas on this subject.

Repeated & careful dissections have rendered the views which I



line espouse, almost indubitable.

Varicose veins may be situated on the verge of the anus, but should not be confounded with the Hemorrhoidal disease properly so called.

The itching, the heat, the pain & all the other concomitants of the disease indicate an increased flow of blood towards the rectum. The causes furnish collateral evidence of the same state of things.

It may be brought on by Habitual constipation, efforts to discharge hardened feces, foreign bodies in the rectum, as suppositories or worms, frequent use of warm injections, suppression of habitual discharges, abuse of drastic purges, heating aliment or drinks, pressure of the gravid uterus



on the veins leading from the pelvic viscera, inequalities of temperature particularly when caused by sitting on damp & cold seats.

Inhabitants of large cities indulge more freely in the luxuries that give rise to the exciting causes & are therefore more frequently attacked by this disorder than those who reside in the country. No age or temperament is exempt from the disease though those of middle life & of bilious or panguine temperament are most obnoxious to it. It is sometimes hereditary & then appears at an early period of life; even children have suffered while very young, but this is of rare occurrence. Pregnant women are troubled with this affection, more



frequently, probably, than any other  
 class of persons, owing to both the  
 pressure of the uterus on the pectus &  
 to the habitual constipation, to which  
 they are liable. After delivery the piles  
 generally become reduced in size &  
 flabby; another reasonable foundation  
 for the inference that they are not vari-  
 cose veins, for one of the natural  
 cures of this last affection arises  
 from pressure of the uterus on the  
 veins causing coalescence of its sides -  
 coagulation of the blood & an obliter-  
 ation of the diseased vessel.

The theory of their being vari-  
 cose enlargements is favoured by  
 constipation as one of the causes, but  
 when we reflect that they arise as  
 often from purging & irritation of



any kind as from impacted feces, we are more disposed to credit other views of the case.

A stream of blood follows a lancet puncture of varicose veins & we would expect it to be certainly large in Hemorrhoidal vessels which are known to have no valves, but these tumours when cut into, are found in a large majority of cases, to be either fleshy excrescences or a men cyst containing a clot of blood.

On post mortem examination of patients who have suffered under open piles, rupture is as unfrequently found as in the stomach & lungs of those who have suffered from Hematemesis or from Hæmoptysis. If rupture does usually take place, we



might expect to find the mucus membrane of the pectum, in persons where the hemorrhage has occurred frequently a trace of cicatrices - whereas no such appearance is met with.

We observe that the blood that is discharged in open piles is often preceded by mucus or mixed with it, or on other occasions is emitted pure. Thus, with other phenomena render it reasonable to attribute this hemorrhage, to the same state of the secreting vessels, that exists in bleedings from other parts of the mucus membrane. In disease, as in every other case, nature is remarkable for the simplicity of her laws, we would therefore go far wide of our mark, if we were to seek different causes for diseases



that are so slowly analogous.

If open piles are to be accounted for in this way, we will find no difficulty in looking on blind piles as an effusion through the minute vessels of the cellular membrane, or in other words as a species of Patches action in its nature, the blood becoming surrounded by a cyst.

Treatment—When the rectum is everted or the internal Hemorrhoidal tumours are protruded, they should be replaced by a previously oiled finger. The patient may be taught to do this, whenever necessary, himself. In this & every other variety of piles, his diet should be regulated & his bowels kept open by some mild aperient, & there is nothing better



for the purpose through every stage of the Hemorrhoidal disease, than the oleaginous mixture - Under this treatment, patients generally suffer so little inconvenience, that the necessity for an operation is evicted.

Piles arise so often from a depraved state of the alimentary canal, that when we undertake a cure, the attention, should always be directed to that quarter & its irregularity, if possible, corrected, for it is out of our power to overcome the disease without having conquered the more influential affection.

General bleeding is oftentimes requisite & the necessity of regulating the diet, should be borne constantly in mind - If the pain or tumescence



of the diseased part be great, or continue long, it will be incumbent on us to enforce a horizontal position & resort to bleeding by leeches, from the parts in the neighbourhood of the anus. Topical depletion, in this, as in nearly all other cases of topical ~~dilatations~~ ~~distensions~~, will be found to almost immediately palliate symptoms. This may be followed by frequently bathing the parts with a warm solution of the acetate of lead or opium or other soothing lotions. Cold applications to the seat ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ of the disease, to the lower part of the abdomen, to the perineum or to the thighs, are also very efficient. One of the best topical applications as a palliative is stramonium made into the consistence of



a liniment by an addition of the liquor of the sub acetate of lead or Goulard's extract. Opium with simple cerate or with cerate of the acetate of lead is also to be prized as a mean of alleviating pain. If the tumour be large & recent, the coagulum of blood may be evacuated by a puncture with a lancet.

Balsam Copaiva is supposed to remove inflammation from mucous membranes & is therefore recommended by many in Hemorrhoides Blanches & even in other forms of the disease.

Open Piles, as I have before, remarked are much less painful than the other forms, & where the discharge is moderate, all that is requisite is to avoid excess of exercise & pay proper attention to the diet. If the patient is



plethoric in his habit, he must be bled & a recurrence of this state avoided by a moderate degree of exercise & the course of treatment usually pursued under these circumstances. But if the flux be excessive, & this is to be determined rather by its effects on the system, than by the quantity, the patient should be confined to a horizontal position, on a mattress in a cool room. He should be rigorously abstinent in his diet & make use of cooling acidulated drinks; cold astringent solutions should be thrown into the rectum or the powder of burnt cork or flour may be blown on the bleeding surface; they act by choking the orifices of the effusing vessels. If these fail to arrest the hemorrhage, introduce the sponge tent, or charpie coated with

The first of these is the fact that the  
 government of the state is not  
 a mere collection of men, but a  
 body of men, each of whom is  
 a member of the state, and each  
 of whom is bound to the state  
 by the same laws, and each of  
 whom is bound to the state by  
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 by the same laws, and each of  
 whom is bound to the state by  
 the same duties.

the white of eggs - if they produce so much irritation that they cannot be retained, we must have recourse to some caustic - the French surgeons recommend the actual cautery - if every thing else fail, this as a dernier resort may be used.

Where from an entire suppression of a habitual flux, alarming symptoms ensue, we should if they cannot be overcome by a remedy less disagreeable, induce a return of the bleeding by leeches, or by making use of some of those applications which we mentioned among the exciting causes, such as irritating suppositories, warm & stimulating injections drastrictic purges &c.

If a surgeon is called on to relieve a patient suffering with "blind piles" &



finds that from inflammation or ulceration, they keep up an irritable action - or that they oppose the expulsion of feces, to such a degree as to cause a protrusion of the intestines - or that they give rise to considerable inconvenience of any kind, he should operate.

For this purpose caustic, the actual cautery, the ligature & excision have been used.

Caustics are slow in effecting a cure & irritating and extend their action beyond the point to which applied; they have therefore been entirely thrown aside.

The use of the actual cautery has been almost limited to the ancient surgeons - It is so exceedingly painful, gives rise to such severe & unmanageable

find the power of education  
the key of an inviolable action  
the power the education of man to  
a degree as to cause a foundation of the  
indication as that they give rise to con-  
siderable consequences of any kind, in  
absolute spirit.

For this purpose, however, the action  
contingent the position of an action, thus  
has been.

Conduct is seen to be affecting a  
more interesting and active than any  
else before the point to which it  
leads they have therefore been entirely  
the same.

The use of the action is  
in the almost limited to the ancient  
times as it is necessary to preserve  
from the the end of the world.

-able symptoms & is withal so formidable to the patient that it is now entirely renounced as one of the means of operating & is used at present only to restrain excessive bleeding.

The first of the two means of operating that remain to be spoken of, has received high commendations, particularly from some of the surgeons of our own country, than whom there is no better authority. It is often successful & never causes hemorrhage, & the advantage which it possesses under any circumstances, is that it is, of all means of operating, least alarming to a timid patient. On the other hand may be urged that it always occasions severe pain & that it is often imprudent to tie all the tumours at the same time &

the question is whether it is possible  
to the extent of the law to be  
enacted as one of the means of  
doing so and it is not only to be  
a separate thing.  
The fact of the law means of  
that that remains to be done of  
the same kind Government has  
already from some of the progress of  
now coming than when there is a  
better authority. It is often successful  
and some have thought to be a  
the which it is not only a  
there is that it is of all means of  
which best showing to a  
fact. As the law is not  
regard that it is a very  
and that it is often  
to all the means at the same time

the irritation of the first ligature increases & aggravates the tumefaction & pain of those left. Tetanus has been known to follow <sup>several cases of</sup> even, death, the effect of this operation, have been recorded. These effects are not astonishing when we reflect that a part of the intestine, especially in internal piles, is really strangulated; and the worst consequences of strangulation, *essr* Lawrence in his excellent work on ruptures, informs us, do not arise from the mechanical obstruction of the bowels, but from the inflammatory affection of the intestine caused by the strangulation. For these & other reasons Boyer, Sabatier, Dupuytren, Petit, Cooper & many other of the most eminent European surgeons have rejected the ligature & adopted the operation of excision as the safest, most



prompt, most effectual & least painful method.

Previously to operating, restore to a healthy state the digestive organs. Let the patient endeavour without straining, to acquire a habit of daily evacuating the bowels, & we should empty them immediately before the operation by such medicine as will not cause a continuance of irritation & purging.

The tumour should be protruded as far as possible by the efforts of the patient, & these can be greatly facilitated by directing him to sit over a tub of hot water. Wash them perfectly clean with tepid water, seize the pile with a pair of forceps or what is far better, a pair of double hooks of proper size & when drawn tense perpendicularly from



the bowel, remove it with a bistoury =  
 Scissors are used by many surgeons  
 & may often answer the purpose, but there  
 is far less precision in their stroke than  
 in that of a knife. The incision in the  
 instance of both the pile & the thickened  
 plait of the bowel, should be longitu-  
 dinal. If there be a transverse fold, take  
 away two elliptical portions in the long  
 axis of the rectum. Such nearly are the  
 precepts of *esq* Abernethy.

After the operation replace the bow-  
 el above the grasp of the sphincter. This  
 precaution is to be particularly attended  
 to, that we may prevent irritation. There  
 will be generally no impropriety in allow-  
 ing the wounds to bleed as long after the  
 operation as there is a tendency to stop.  
 After this place the patient on a hard



bed in a cool place & direct that the anus be occasionally bathed with cold water, for if he be placed in a warm bed immoderate hemorrhage will be apt to supervene, & the blood effused into the rectum acting as a stimulant, must necessarily be evacuated per anum, in this act the wounded parts are again protruded & injured. If the proper treatment be pursued, little or no danger attends the operation & in the course of an hour or two the patient feels free from all uneasiness. Hemorrhage may occur notwithstanding our precautions & is then to be controlled as mentioned when speaking of open piles.

It is a very necessary point of attention to keep the parts undisturbed as long as possible after the operation. The patient should therefore be restricted in his

the is a good place to start that the  
man is occasionally taking with care  
water for the benefit of a woman for  
immediate remedy. will be left to  
experience & the third appears to be  
action acting on a woman's mind as  
though he would be for remedy of the  
last the woman's heart was a great  
heart & a great. of the proper treatment  
the patient will be no longer ill  
the patient is in the company of her  
for the patient has for all women  
very. The woman may be in a state of  
the patient's mind is to be in a state  
the patient's mind is to be in a state  
it is a very interesting part of the  
the patient's mind is to be in a state  
in a state of the patient's mind. The patient  
the patient's mind is to be in a state

diet & use those articles only which afford, after the process of digestion, the least residue. If the cathartic which was given before the operation should threaten to act after it, an opiate will generally obviate its effects. In this way an evacuation may be averted for five or six days. *Esq. Abernethy* states that under these circumstances the bowels may remain dormant ten days. During this period the wound generally heals & the evacuations which follow are unattended by hemorrhage or descent of the intestine. But if from any cause sensations irresistibly requiring alvine evacuations for their relief, arise, it is advisable to order a dose of Castor oil & an injection of tepid water to break down & dissolve the hardened feces. After

but even these articles are not without interest.  
After the passage of legislation, the best  
results. If the evidence which was given  
before the committee should be taken to  
act after it, an effort will probably  
be made to effect it. It may be some  
action may be made for some  
days. It is certainly true that in the  
last circumstances the board may be  
more desirous to delay. During this  
time the board generally deals with the  
action which follows are not without  
an oversight or consent of the committee.  
But I fear any case resolution will  
not be very satisfactory. It is certainly  
for this body, and it is certainly  
a matter of fact of fact, and it is  
not of fact, and it is not of fact.  
The committee is not of fact.

this discharge, wash clean & replace any part of the bowels which may have been everted, & check the purging by giving a small dose of Laudanum.

The operation is always beneficial, but a permanent exemption is to be secured only by removing the remote cause of the disease.

the language must be clear & simple  
 part of the book which may have  
 been intended to check the progress of  
 a small class of students  
 the question is always brought  
 up, but a few moments' reflection  
 is the answer, not by comparing the  
 present state of the science